

For Immediate Release:
November 7, 2008

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Statement from Mayor Chuck Reed on the Passage of Measures J & K

I want to thank the residents of San Jose for your support of Measures J and K, which will help preserve vital city services from police and fire to parks and libraries.

We know that these are tough economic times, which is why we proposed reducing these critical taxes at the same time that we made them permanent. You have my commitment to be open and transparent in spending this revenue. With your support, the City Council has implemented a community budget process, so that you have multiple opportunities to get involved and help set priorities before the City Council votes on how to spend your tax dollars.

The effort to pass Measures J and K was a collaborative effort, and I want to thank those who helped us to get the word out about the importance of these two ballot measures.

Key supporters included: The San Jose City Council, former Mayor Susan Hammer, the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, the League of Women Voters, and the South Bay Labor Council.

San Jose's employees made a tremendous difference. You are on the frontlines every day, keeping our neighborhoods safe, helping a child discover the joy of reading, providing healthy meals for our seniors, filling potholes and repaving our streets. Many of you – especially the members of AFSCME – Municipal Employees Federation lead by Yolanda Cruz and Erik Larsen – took time to walk the neighborhoods of San Jose, delivering valuable information about J&K.

Our police officers and firefighters, through the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 230 and Police Officers Association, conducted a mail effort that helped educate voters about the importance of J & K for public safety. I want to thank Bobby Lopez and the POA board, and Randy Sekany and the Local 230 board for this effort.

Our nonprofit community joined us. Our nonprofits are valuable partners in providing services to city residents, and many of you gave your support to J & K, signing ballot statements, writing editorials, contributing financially, and getting the word out through your community. Thanks to Emmett Carson of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and Patricia Gardner and Clark Williams of the Silicon Valley Council of

Nonprofits for your endorsements and leadership in mobilizing the nonprofit community this November.

Just six short weeks before Election Day, Measures J and K were in an uphill battle. The San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, with the help of San Jose Fire Fighters Local 230 and the San Jose POA, commissioned a poll of likely voters September 21-23. The results showed that when first asked, voters said yes to Measure J at 46 percent and yes to Measure K at 50 percent. Those numbers dropped significantly when voters were read the pros and cons of each measure.

Thanks to your efforts, we were able to run a great campaign, and it paid off. Measure J passed with 77.69 percent of the vote, while Measure K garnered nearly 80 percent!

Without these measures, San Jose was at risk of losing \$45 million per year in funding for critical services. As it is, we face difficult times in the years ahead, with the nation struggling financially and the state threatening to take away local revenues that pay for the services that make a difference to our residents.

I hope you'll join me to help encourage our state and federal officials to invest in our local community rather than taking away our services, to help us create jobs and repair our infrastructure and rebuild our economy. I ask you to get involved in our community budget process, letting me and your City Councilmember know what matters most to you as we make tough decisions about how to spend the tax dollars that you entrust to us.

If you want to stay updated on the community budget process and the economic issues facing our city, visit my website at www.sanjoseca.gov/mayor, or send an email to me at mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov.

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